

**In the Claims:**

1-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently amended) A cable duct coupler for coupling a first cable duct section to a second cable duct section without the need for tools, said first and second cable duct sections each having an end, said cable duct coupler comprising:

a first duct-receiving portion generally complementary to said end of said first cable duct section, a second duct-receiving portion generally complementary to said end of said second cable duct section;

a releasable locking mechanism for securing said first cable duct section to said coupler without the use of tools, said releasable locking mechanism comprising a barb comprising an edge positioned at a distal end thereof, wherein said edge engages said first cable duct section when said end of said first cable duct section is positioned within said first duct-receiving portion of said coupler; and

a barb cover for covering said barb.

48-85. (Cancelled)

86. (New) A cable duct coupler for coupling a first cable duct section to a second cable duct section, said cable duct coupler comprising:

a first duct-receiving portion for receiving an end of said first cable duct section;

a second duct-receiving portion for receiving an end of said second cable duct section;

a barb for securing said coupler to at least one of said first and second cable duct sections, said barb extending from a first end to a second end, at least one of said ends comprising an edge positioned to engage a portion of at least one of said first and second cable duct sections when said first and second cable duct sections are positioned in said

first and second duct-receiving portions;

a cover overlying at least a portion of said barb, said cover comprising a fastener integral therewith for securing said barb to said coupler; and

a mount positioned on said coupler, said mount defining an opening for receiving said fastener.

87. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 86, wherein said barb comprises a base portion and two arms, said arms being positioned at an angle relative to said base portion.

88. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 86, wherein said barb comprises a plurality of barbs.

89. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 86, wherein said fastener comprises at least one detent.

90. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 86, wherein said fastener is threaded.

91. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 86, wherein said cover further comprises an aperture.

93. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 86, wherein said first and second cable duct sections are capable of being secured to said coupler without tools.

94. (New) A cable duct coupler for coupling a first cable duct section to a second cable duct section, said cable duct coupler comprising:

a first duct-receiving portion for receiving an end of said first cable duct section;

a second duct-receiving portion for receiving an end of said second cable duct section;

a barb for securing said coupler to at least one of said first and second cable duct sections, said barb extending from a first end to a second end, at least one of said ends comprising an edge positioned to engage a portion of at least one of said first and second cable duct sections when said first and second cable duct sections are positioned in said first and second duct-receiving portions; and

a cover overlying at least a portion of said barb, said cover defining an aperture for receiving a fastener.

95. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 94, wherein said barb comprises a base portion and two arms, said arms being positioned at an angle relative to said base portion.

96. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 94, wherein said barb comprises a plurality of barbs.

97. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 94, further comprising a fastener comprising at least one detent for securing said barb to said coupler.

98. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 94, further comprising a mount positioned on said coupler, said mount defining an opening for receiving said fastener.

99. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 94, wherein said first and second cable duct sections are capable of being secured to said coupler without tools.

99. (New) A cable duct coupler for coupling a first cable duct section to a second cable duct section, said cable duct coupler comprising:

a first duct-receiving portion for receiving an end of said first cable duct section;

a second duct-receiving portion for receiving an end of said second cable duct section;

a barb for securing said coupler to at least one of said first and second cable duct sections, said barb extending from a first end to a second end and comprising at least one arm;

a cover overlying at least a portion of said barb, said cover comprising a fastener integral therewith for securing said cover to said coupler; and

a mount positioned on said coupler, said mount defining an opening for receiving said fastener of said cover.

100. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 99, wherein said barb comprises a base portion and two arms, said arms being positioned at an angle relative to said base portion.

101. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 99, wherein said barb comprises a plurality of barbs.

102. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 102, wherein said fastener comprises at least one detent.

103. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 102, wherein said fastener is threaded.

104. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 102, wherein said cover defines an aperture.

105. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 102, wherein said first and second cable duct sections are capable of being secured to said coupler without tools.

106. (New) A cable duct coupler for coupling a first cable duct section to a second cable duct section, said cable duct coupler comprising:

a first duct-receiving portion for receiving an end of said first cable duct section;

a second duct-receiving portion for receiving an end of said second cable duct section;

a barb for securing said coupler to at least one of said first and second cable duct sections, said barb extending from a first end to a second end and comprising at least one arm; and

a cover overlying at least a portion of said barb, said cover defining an aperture for receiving a fastener.

107. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 106, wherein said barb comprises a base portion and two arms, said arms being positioned at an angle relative to said base portion.

108. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 106, further comprising a mount positioned on said coupler, said mount defining an opening for receiving said fastener.

109. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 106, further comprising a fastener for securing said barb to said coupler.

110. (New) The cable duct coupler of claim 106, wherein said first and second cable duct sections are capable of being secured to said coupler without tools.